

## INDICATORS FOR CHILDREN/YOUTH AT RISK FOR SCHOOL FAILURE

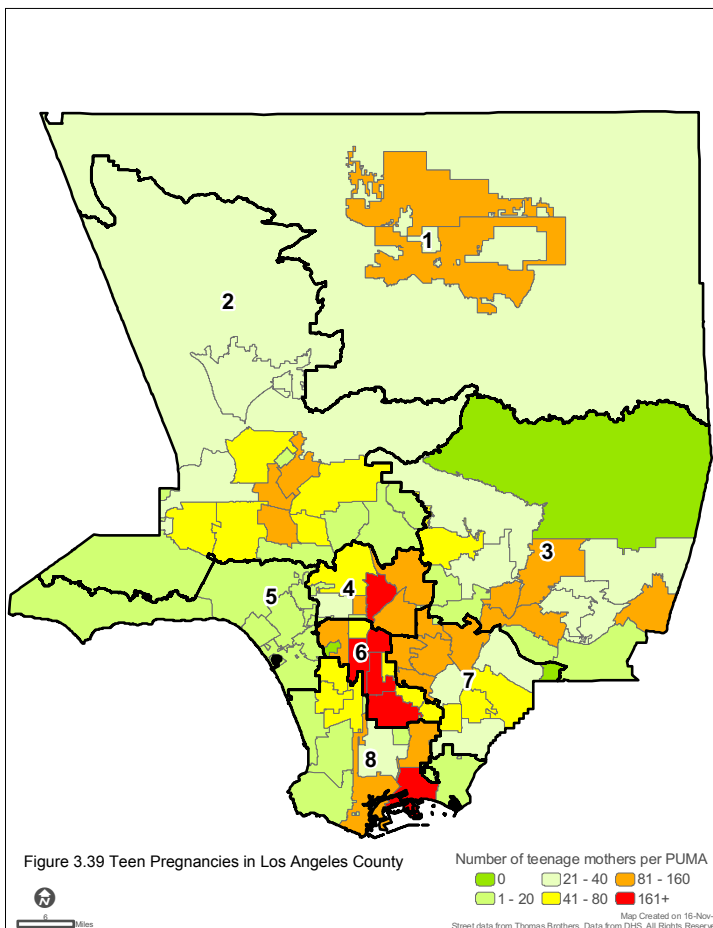
### 4-year Dropout Rate

#### Description of Indicator

California Department of Education High School Dropout Rates as reported by Los Angeles County educational agencies for the 2006-07 academic year by ethnicity.

The 4-year derived dropout rate is an estimate of the percent of students who would drop out in a four-year period based on data collected for a single year.

“What criteria is used to define a dropout? In October, 2003, the California Department of Education (CDE) adopted the National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES) Dropout definition. Following the new guidelines, the CDE now defines a dropout as a person who: 1. Was enrolled in grades 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 or 12 at some time during the previous



As shown in the Figure 3.39, teen pregnancy is most prevalent in parts of Service Area 4, throughout Service Area 6, and in the Southeastern part of Service Area 8 (i.e. Long Beach S.). The lowest rates were found in Service Area 5.

*Teen mothers are less likely to complete the education necessary to qualify for a well-paying job —only 40 percent of mothers who have children before age 18 ever graduate from high school compared with about three-quarters of similarly situated young women who delay childbearing until age 20 or 21.5 Furthermore, less than two percent of mothers who have children before age 18 complete college by the age of 30 compared to nine percent of young women who wait until age 20 or 21 to have children. This disparity in education, not surprisingly, tends to affect income level. In fact, over the past 20 years the median income for college graduates has increased 19 percent while the median income for high school dropouts has decreased 28 percent.*

Why it Matters, National Campaign to Prevent Teenage Pregnancy  
[www.teenpregnancy.org](http://www.teenpregnancy.org)

school year AND left school prior to completing the school year AND has not returned to school as of Information Day OR 2. Did not begin attending the next grade (7, 8, 9, 10, 11 or 12) in the school to which they were assigned or in which they had pre-registered or were expected to attend by Information Day.” (CDE, 2008)

### What the Numbers Show

State figures indicated that over a quarter of all students in Los Angeles County drop out of high school over a four-year period. Examining ethnic categories indicated that African-American students were most at risk for not finishing high school, followed by Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Hispanic or Latino Students. 15.5% of White students drop out of high school. Two ethnic groups had dropout rates below this: Asian, 7.4% and Filipino, 12.8%.

Table 3.31  
Four-year Dropout Rates for 2006-07

Ethnicities	Rate <sup>1</sup>
American Indian/Alaska Native	36.1
Asian	7.4
Pacific Islander	37.6
Filipino	12.8
Hispanic or Latino	32.1
African American (not Hispanic)	42.3
White	15.5
Multiple/No Response	37.7

1. Adjusted Grade 9-12 Four-year Derived Dropout Rate %

## High School Graduation Rates

### Description of Indicator

High School Graduation Rates are calculated for each neighborhood by the following formula: Graduation Rate = Number of high school seniors who graduated/number of students enrolled in their senior year of high

### The 4-year Derived Rate Formula:

$$(1 - ((1 - (\text{Reported or Adjusted Gr. 9 Dropouts/Gr. 9 Enrollment})) * (1 - (\text{Reported or Adjusted Gr. 10 Dropouts/Gr. 10 Enrollment})) * (1 - (\text{Reported or Adjusted Gr. 11 Dropouts/Gr. 11 Enrollment})) * (1 - (\text{Reported or Adjusted Gr. 12 Dropouts/Gr. 12 Enrollment})))) * 100$$

Overall, these figures indicated that over a quarter of all students drop out from high school over a four-year period. Examining ethnic categories indicated that African-American students were most at risk for not finishing high school, followed by Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Hispanic or Latino Students. 15.5% of White students drop out of high school. Two ethnic groups had dropout rates below this: Asian, 7.4% and Filipino, 12.8%.

school. Numbers are reported for the 2004-05 academic year.

### Research Base and Relevance to PEI

This measure is an indication of the numbers of adolescents who succeed in graduating and, conversely, the numbers of those who did not. The indicator only reports on the senior year and does not take into consideration those children who dropped out of school at some earlier year. An absolute measure of total dropouts is difficult to ob-

Table 3.32  
Countywide Summary: High School Graduation Rates

Service Area	Am Ind or Alaska	Asian	Pac Isl	Filip	Hisp	Afr Am	White	Mult/No Resp	Total
1	89.4	98.2	93.8	96.4	86.3	80.6	93.9	100.0	89.1
2	77.6	93.5	78.3	90.6	69.1	68.7	87.6	75.5	77.9
3	66.1	97.0	76.0	96.0	81.0	75.3	91.2	88.9	86.8
4	39.1	75.5	56.0	79.3	56.7	50.7	72.9	93.8	59.4
5	48.1	89.2	75.9	89.8	64.7	69.8	90.6	88.2	75.7
6	66.7	79.7	62.4	84.6	56.1	51.8	80.0	95.4	55.7
7	85.6	97.4	91.5	96.2	81.7	83.5	93.9	82.4	84.8
8	84.3	92.3	71.8	88.1	70.3	67.9	92.4	79.8	77.9
Total	70.8	93.9	75.9	90.3	70.9	65.4	89.6	84.0	77.0

61-70

50-60

&lt; 50

tain since it requires at least a cross-district analysis on all children who may leave a school, move out of district, re-emerge, and so forth. In spite of its imperfections, graduation rates are a good indicator of where school failures are occurring within the county.

#### What the Numbers Show

Across the county, African-Americans had the lowest high school graduation rates reported: 65.4%. This was followed by American Indians or Alaskan Natives at 70.8%; Hispanics, 70.9%; Pacific Islanders, 75.9%; Whites, 89.6%; Filipinos, 70.9%; and Asians, 93.9%. When comparing service areas, one can see that Service Areas 4 and 6 had graduation rates below 60% -- about 4 out of every 10 children in those areas do not graduate. Looking within the services areas yielded two American Indian or Alaskan Native populations in Service Areas 4 and 5

whose high school graduation rates were below 50% -- less than one out of every two children. The following service area tables provide more detailed information on where education problems are occurring at very high rates.

#### Service Area Communities

##### Service Area 1: Antelope Valley

Across the county, the Antelope Valley had the highest graduation rate of all service areas, 89.1%. No population saw graduation rates below 50%. The American Indian/Alaskan Native population in the Palmdale area had the lowest graduation rate in the area, 66.7%.

##### Service Area 2: San Fernando

Across the service area, two ethnic groups, African-Americans and Hispanic students, had the lowest graduation rates seen with both under 70%. Examining the service

Table 3.33  
Service Area Communities: High School Graduation Rates

Service Area 1	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Pacific Islander	Filipino	Hispanic	African-American	White	Multiple or No Response	Total
Lancaster	88.9	97.9	100.0	94.6	81.3	74.9	92.2		86.0
Palmdale	66.7	96.6	87.5	97.5	89.2	86.8	92.9	100.0	90.0
North County E.	100.0	100.0	100.0	97.4	88.4	84.7	98.6	100.0	94.0
Service Area 2									
Santa Clarita	86.4	97.2	91.7	94.0	71.1	65.1	89.5	44.4	83.2
Burbank	42.9	86.0	100.0	88.1	42.2	53.7	73.4	53.9	57.7
Glendale		94.3	100.0	97.2	84.6	90.5	91.1	100.0	90.5
Northridge	83.3	92.0	75.0	100.0	71.2	77.0	87.3		80.0
Granada Hills	77.8	98.6	60.0	92.2	78.1	72.5	89.7	100.0	83.2
Pacoima-Arleta	66.7	100.0		75.0	77.3	64.3	71.4		77.1
La Tuna Cyn.	33.3	88.0	100.0	95.1	71.9	61.0	77.7		73.8
Panorama City	100.0	84.0	100.0	80.0	59.9	52.5	73.5		62.9
North Hollywood		85.3	60.0	92.3	64.3	44.8	70.9		66.0
Sherman Oaks		90.8	71.4	88.9	56.3	66.2	77.9		66.4
Encino	100.0	95.6	71.4	87.6	78.2	84.8	87.4		82.7
Woodland Hills	66.7	93.6	80.0	84.9	70.3	69.2	87.5		79.5
Brentwood N.	100.0	90.4		81.8	78.7	74.4	83.9		81.3
North County W.	100.0	100.0	100.0	97.4	88.4	84.7	98.6	100.0	93.8
La Canada-Flintridge	50.0	87.6	7.7	82.8	42.5	33.8	89.6	54.5	66.3
San Fernando-Calabasas-Agoura	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	84.7	85.7	98.4	80.0	97.4
Service Area 3									
Pasadena	42.9	99.3	100.0	93.8	72.6	69.0	94.0	100.0	79.8
El Monte	66.7	93.4	100.0	100.0	86.4	80.0	64.2		86.7
Pomona	80.0	96.2	81.8	100.0	77.5	84.4	88.4	96.2	81.1
West Covina		100.0	100.0	100.0	98.5	100.0	99.0	100.0	99.0
Altadena-Monrovia-Sierra Madre	50.0	87.6	7.7	82.8	42.5	33.8	89.6	54.5	66.3
Alhambra-S. Pasadena	66.7	95.7	77.8	92.3	76.2	71.0	66.5	58.5	84.4
Arcadia-San Gabriel-Temple City-San Marino	100.0	98.0	50.0	100.0	88.9	96.6	96.0	100.0	96.0
Baldwin Park-Azusa-Duarte	42.9	79.3	100.0	87.2	67.7	72.4	76.0	72.5	70.2
Glendora-Claremont-San Dimas-La Verne	66.7	97.9	88.9	97.0	90.6	88.7	95.7	97.1	94.2
Covina-Walnut	66.7	99.3	80.0	98.2	93.8	78.3	93.4	84.6	94.1
Diamond Bar	100.0	99.6	100.0	100.0	94.7	96.9	99.6	100.0	98.5
La Puente-S. El Monte	100.0	86.5	75.0	86.4	79.6	79.3	73.3	100.0	79.8
Hacienda Heights	87.5	98.8	81.8	100.0	96.0	90.0	98.5	80.0	96.7
Monterey Park-Rosemead	100.0	98.1	100.0	100.0	80.2	82.5	100.0	100.0	88.6

	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Pacific Islander	Filipino	Hispanic	African- American	White	Multiple or No Re- sponse	Total
<b>Service Area 4</b>									
Wilshire La Brea E.		58.2	50.0	92.6	50.5	58.9	84.5		55.4
Hollywood	50.0	72.1		89.3	71.5	71.8	80.6		73.4
Pico Heights			100.0		95.5	94.1	100.0	100.0	95.4
Echo Park	57.1	74.1	85.7	72.3	54.7	57.2	79.6		59.1
Highland Park	66.7	91.7	66.7	88.7	69.5	74.0	80.6		73.0
Downtown	25.0	63.7	27.3	70.0	44.1	20.7	45.4		42.5
USC N.		75.0			73.4	55.6	0.0		68.8
West Adams		75.8		66.7	51.9	55.7	77.8		56.6
West Hollywood		98.3	87.5	95.5	84.2	82.4	97.6	90.0	92.3
<b>Service Area 5</b>									
Brentwood S.	100.0	90.4		81.8	78.7	74.4	83.9		81.3
West LA		76.1	100.0	66.7	52.3	57.5	67.0		58.6
Wilshire La Brea W.		58.2		92.6	50.5	58.9	84.5		55.4
Baldwin Hills W.	100.0	75.8	66.7	66.7	51.9	55.7	77.8		56.6
Playa Vista	41.7	88.9	50.0	90.9	62.6	71.5	75.2		68.3
Santa Monica-Culver City-Beverly Hills		98.3	87.5	95.5	84.2	82.4	97.6	90.0	92.3
Malibu		100.0	100.0	100.0	84.7	85.7	98.4	80.0	97.4
<b>Service Area 6</b>									
USC S.	100.0	75.0			73.4	55.6	20.0		68.8
Baldwin Hills S.	62.5	75.8	66.7	66.7	51.9	55.7	77.8		56.6
Hancock N.	25.0	100.0		100.0	71.5	44.8			63.5
USC E.	100.0	25.0			52.9	20.4			48.8
Watts		100.0			37.6	30.9	33.3		35.8
Florence-Firestone		62.5			50.0	15.4	16.7		49.6
Lynwood			22.2		67.7	73.0	66.7		67.8
Paramount	100.0	86.2	83.3	93.8	82.4	75.6	81.7	95.7	81.9
Compton	100.0	100.0	64.3	100.0	65.7	66.1	100.0		66.1

area's composite communities indicated that the Burbank area had the lowest overall graduation rate in the service area, 57.7%. Additionally, several ethnic groups had especially low rates in particular communities. For example, Hispanic students in the Burbank and La Canada-Flintridge areas were more likely to drop out

than graduate. African-American students in the North Hollywood area and La Canada-Flintridge areas were similarly at risk for not graduating. American Indians/Alaskan Natives in the Burbank and La Tuna Cyn. areas were also more likely to not graduate than graduate from high school.

Table 3.33 continued  
Service Area Communities: High School Graduation Rates

Service Area 7	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Pacific Islander	Filipino	Hispanic	African-American	White	Multiple or No Response	Total
East LA	100.0	50.0		50.0	79.8	50.0	66.7		79.5
Downey	85.7	97.2	100.0	80.8	76.7	72.3	89.4	44.4	79.1
Norwalk	66.7	96.8	100.0	100.0	89.8	93.3	91.7	100.0	91.0
Whittier	87.5	98.8	81.8	100.0	96.0	90.0	98.5	80.0	96.7
Montebello	100.0	98.8	100.0	94.4	97.3	100.0	96.8	100.0	97.4
Bell Gardens-Bell-Maywood-Cudahy-Commerce	100.0	100.0			75.9	100.0	69.2		76.1
Huntington Park		62.5			50.0	15.4	16.7		49.6
South Gate			22.2		67.7	73.0	66.7		67.8
Bellflower	100.0	86.2	83.3	93.8	82.4	75.6	81.7	95.7	81.9
La Mirada-Santa Fe Springs	66.7	94.6	100.0	100.0	87.5	80.0	94.5	50.0	89.4
Lakewood-Cerritos-Artesia-Hawaiian Gardens	100.0	97.6	93.5	97.2	91.7	93.3	96.0	97.1	94.7
Signal Hill		100.0		93.3	89.3	100.0	99.3		98.6
<b>Service Area 8</b>									
Hancock S.									0.0
Wilmington	87.5	83.1	56.8	79.3	65.4	56.1	76.8		66.3
Inglewood		100.0	100.0	100.0	97.7	95.1	75.0		96.6
Torrance	100.0	99.7	100.0	100.0	99.4	98.8	99.1	100.0	99.4
Long Beach N.	25.0	64.9	60.3	61.8	51.9	60.2	50.3	50.0	55.3
Long Beach S.	100.0	83.4	76.8	94.8	73.4	81.6	91.1		80.4
Long Beach E.	75.0	93.3	88.9	88.3	80.9	82.3	95.1		87.3
Carson	100.0	96.6	75.8	87.7	71.4	71.6	71.9		77.2
Palos Verdes-Lomita		100.0	50.0	93.3	89.3	100.0	99.3	100.0	98.6
Redondo-Manhattan-Hermosa-El Segundo	100.0	97.9	90.0	100.0	95.7	91.5	97.1	93.9	98.5
Gardena-Lawndale	85.7	79.8	79.3	73.3	57.2	53.0	56.4	58.8	56.7
Hawthorne		70.0	55.6	80.0	67.6	62.2	62.5	16.7	66.0

61-70

50-60

&lt; 50

### Service Area 3: San Gabriel

The San Gabriel Valley had the second highest graduation rate in the county, 86.8%. Across the service area, the Altadena-Monrovia-Sierra Madre aggregate had the lowest overall graduation rate of all communities, 66.3%. Three ethnic groups had very low graduation rates within this

community: Pacific Islanders, Hispanics, and African-Americans. Overall, across service area ethnic groups, American Indian or Alaskan Natives had the lowest graduation rate (66.1%). In two communities, the Pasadena and Baldwin Park-Azusa-Duarte areas, this figure was less than 50%, or less than one out of every two students.

**Service Area 4: Metro**

Service Area 4 had the lowest graduation rates across all ethnic groups within the county without exception. Overall, 59.4% of students graduated with communities ranging from a low of 42.5% in the Downtown area to a high of 95.4% in the Pico Heights area. Ethnic groups within the Downtown area were particularly at risk. African-American students, for example, graduated at a rate of 20.7%, or about one out of every five students. For American Indian or Alaskan Native and Pacific Islander students, this rate was about one out of four. Similarly, Hispanic and White students in the Downtown area were more likely to drop out than graduate.

**Service Area 5: West**

Service Area 5 had an overall high school graduation rate of 75.7%, which indicated that about one out of four students fails to graduate. Within the service area only one ethnic group had a graduation rate lower than 50%: American Indians or Alaskan Natives (48.1%). Half of the service area communities had fairly high graduation rates (Brentwood S., Santa Monica-Culver City-Beverly Hills, and Malibu), while the other half had fairly low rates (West LA, Wilshire La Brea W., and Baldwin Hills W.) Almost all students graduate from the Malibu area, while about half of all students graduate from the higher-risk areas.

**Service Area 6: South**

Across the county, Service Area 6 had the lowest graduation rate, 55.7%, or slightly more than half of all students. Four communities within the service area had overall graduation rates below 50%, indicating

that less than half of all students in the area graduate. The most at-risk community, Watts, had a 35.8% graduation rate, the lowest in the county. Hispanic and African-American students were particularly at risk for not graduating. In the Watts area, for example, the graduation rate for Hispanic students was 37.6%; in the Florence-Firestone area, the graduation rate for African-Americans was 15.4%, or fewer than two students out of ten.

**Service Area 7: East**

Service Area 7 had an overall high school graduation rate of 84.8% and saw no one ethnic group below the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile. However, one community within the service area had a graduation rate lower than 50%: the Huntington Park area (49.6%). Looking within this area revealed that students of all ethnicities found it difficult to succeed in graduating. Hispanic students, for example, graduated there at a rate of 50%, meaning that one out two students did not graduate. African-American students graduated there at a rate of 15.4%, and Whites at 16.7%.

**Service Area 8: South Bay**

Service Area 8 had an overall graduation rate of 77.9%, which was close to the countywide rate of 77%. Only one ethnic group held a graduation rate that was below 70%: African-American students at 65.4%. Within the service area, the highest risk areas appeared to be the Long Beach N. area (55.3%) and the Gardena-Lawndale area (56.7%). In both of these communities, four of ten students do not graduate. In the Long Beach N. area, White and Hispanic students had graduation rates that were

close to 50%, or one out of two students. The American Indian or Alaskan Native graduation rate was very low in the area, but must be interpreted with caution as the numbers of those students was relatively small. In the Gardena-Lawndale area, Hispanic, African-American, and White students all had low graduation rates between 50-60%.



## English Fluency

### Description of Indicator

This indicator is a measure of an individual's self-reported difficulty in speaking English on the ACS. Fluency problems were counted when an individual claimed they spoke English "Not well" or "Not at all." Numbers are reported as percentages of the population within a neighborhood.

### Research Base and Relevance to PEI

English fluency is a predictor of school failure. Children who are from non-English-language backgrounds may be more than 1.5 times likely to leave school than those with an English language background. It should be noted that when considering an individual's risk in dropping out of school, multiple risk factors have a better predictive ability than just one indicator. (Purcell, 2003).

### What the Numbers Show

Across the county, the overall fluency rate for all students was 68.3% and suggested that a large number of children are at risk for school failure as a result of a language barrier. Service Area 6 had the lowest fluency rate in the county at 52.7% and Service Area 4 was close to this figure at 54.3%. In fact, these two service areas held the lowest high

Table 3.34  
Countywide Summary: Fluency Rate

Service Area	Fluency Rate
1	81.3
2	70.2
3	74.2
4	54.3
5	80.2
6	52.7
7	68.0
8	75.8
Countywide	68.3

61-70
50-60
< 50

school graduation rates in the county as mentioned above.

### Service Area Communities

#### Service Area 1: Antelope Valley

Across the county, Service Area 1 had the highest fluency rate, 81.3%, within its school population. Examining the composite communities indicated that all communities had a fluency rate that exceeded the county average of 68.7%. Only the Palmdale area (76.5) had a fluency rate below 80%.

#### Service Area 2: San Fernando

Service Area 2 had an overall fluency rate of 70.2% within its student population, slightly above the county average of 68.3%. Two communities, the Pacoima-Arleta area (49.6%) and the Panorama City area (42.5%) dipped below 50% indicating that one of two students had difficulty with speaking English. Spanish was the most common primary

language spoken at home in both of these communities.

### **Service Area 3: San Gabriel**

Service Area 3 had an overall fluency rate of 74.2% in its student population, which was above the countywide figure of 68.3%. Although two communities, the El Monte area (57.6%) and the Pomona area (53.3%), had relatively low fluency rates, this did not appear to impact the high school graduation rates noted above, which were relatively high. A majority of residents in these two areas spoke Spanish as their primary language.

### **Service Area 4: Metro**

Service Area 4 had a fluency rate of 54.3% in its student population, which was the second lowest figure in the county. As mentioned above, Service Area 4 also had the second lowest graduation rate among the county service areas. Examining the composite communities does not always yield a simple one-to-one correspondence between English Fluency and graduation rate. Consider the Pico Heights area, for example, which held the *lowest* fluency rate in the service area at 36.8% but also held one of the *highest* graduation rates in service area. In a similar vein, the West Adams area, which held one of the *highest* fluency rates in the Service at 74.5%, also held one of the *lowest* graduation rates in the service area. These figures suggested that variables other than fluency, such as Ethnicity, Poverty, School Quality, etc., are associated with graduation rates in complex ways.

### **Service Area 5: West**

Next to Service Area 1, Service Area 5 had the highest fluency rate in the county, 80.2%.

Only one area, Wilshire La Brea W. (61.4%), saw its fluency rate dip below 70%. This area also had the lowest high school graduation rate in the service area. In fact, the areas with the three lowest fluency rates, West LA, Wilshire La Brea W., and Baldwin Hills W., also had the three lowest graduation rates in the service area.

### **Service Area 6: South**

Across the county, Service Area 6 had the lowest English Fluency (52.7%) rate in its student population across the service areas. It was also the service area with the lowest high school graduation rate, as identified above. English Fluency in the USC E., Florence-Firestone, and Compton areas was below 50%. These areas had correspondingly low high school graduation rates. This was especially true in the USC E. and Florence-Firestone areas, and to a lesser degree in the Compton area.

### **Service Area 7: East**

Service Area 7 had an English Fluency rate of 68% in its student population, which was nearly identical to the countywide rate of 68.3%. The Huntington Park area (45.9%) and the South Gate area (55.6%) had low English Fluency rates and, as mentioned above, the two lowest high school graduation rates in the service area. The aggregate community of Bell Gardens-Bell-Maywood-Cudahy-Commerce also had a low English Fluency rate, but a moderate high school graduation rate. All three of these communities have very large numbers of individuals whose primary language is Spanish, (i.e., greater than 75% of the population).

Table 3.35  
Service Area Communities: Fluency Rate

	Enrollment	English Learners	English Speakers	Fluency Rate
<b>Service Area 1</b>				
Lancaster	31039	4529	26510	85.4
Palmdale	35431	8326	27105	76.5
North County E.	17977	2906	15071	83.8
Total	84447	15761	68686	81.3
<b>Service Area 2</b>				
Santa Clarita	36064	4190	31874	88.4
Burbank	16648	2459	14189	85.2
Glendale	21918	6573	15345	70.0
Northridge	24252	5267	18985	78.3
Granada Hills	27865	7132	20733	74.4
Pacoima-Arleta	21963	11078	10885	49.6
La Tuna Cyn.	24022	10017	14005	58.3
Panorama City	19976	11486	8490	42.5
North Hollywood	15143	6785	8358	55.2
Sherman Oaks	23764	10632	13132	55.3
Encino	30357	8928	21429	70.6
Woodland Hills	23202	6302	16900	72.8
Brentwood N.	7493	1003	6489	86.6
North County W.	13152	2126	11026	83.8
La Canada-Flintridge	5357	855	4502	84.0
San Fernando-Calabasas-Agoura	17115	3051	14064	82.2
Total	328291	97884	230407	70.2
<b>Service Area 3</b>				
Pasadena	19104	3738	15366	80.4
El Monte	24722	10479	14243	57.6
Pomona	31462	14696	16766	53.3
West Covina	15573	2020	13553	87.0
Altadena-Monrovia-Sierra Madre	14249	2273	11976	84.0
Alhambra-S. Pasadena	18150	5282	12868	70.9
Arcadia-San Gabriel-Temple City-San Marino	29596	6179	23417	79.1
Baldwin Park-Azusa-Duarte	33602	11107	22495	66.9
Glendora-Claremont-San Dimas-La Verne	29331	1385	27946	95.3
Covina-Walnut	29667	5090	24577	82.8
Diamond Bar	18801	2789	16012	85.2
La Puente-S. El Monte	24066	8559	15507	64.4
Hacienda Heights	9291	1769	7522	81.0
Monterey Park-Rosemead	17576	5870	11706	66.6
Other	176	28	147	83.8
Total	315191	81237	233954	74.2

**Service Area 4**

	Enrollment	English Learners	English Speakers	Fluency Rate
Wilshire La Brea E.	15473	5966	9506	61.4
Hollywood	21898	10673	11225	51.3
Pico Heights	16793	10605	6188	36.8
Echo Park	31202	14806	16396	52.5
Highland Park	39552	15020	24532	62.0
Downtown	34919	17434	17485	50.1
USC N.	3765	1833	1932	51.3
West Adams	1300	332	968	74.5
West Hollywood	3953	503	3450	87.3
Other	400	214	186	46.4
Total	168855	77172	91682	54.3

**Service Area 5**

Brentwood S.	6754	905	5850	86.6
West LA	17292	4596	12696	73.4
Wilshire La Brea W.	2818	1087	1732	61.4
Baldwin Hills W.	1997	510	1488	74.5
Playa Vista	14683	2952	11731	79.9
Santa Monica-Culver City-Beverly Hills	19006	2420	16586	87.3
Malibu	3513	626	2887	82.2
Other	53	15	39	72.5
Total	66064	13095	52968	80.2

**Service Area 6**

USC S.	12722	6193	6529	51.3
Baldwin Hills S.	19243	4911	14331	74.5
Hancock N.	23732	10722	13011	54.8
USC E.	26590	16960	9630	36.2
Watts	34802	16705	18097	52.0
Florence-Firestone	12082	6540	5541	45.9
Lynwood	17487	7761	9726	55.6
Paramount	9671	3667	6004	62.1
Compton	33790	16916	16874	49.9
Other	1213	154	1058	87.3
Total	191332	90530	100801	52.7

Table 3.35 continued  
Service Area Communities: Fluency Rate

	Enrollment	English Learners	English Speakers	Fluency Rate
<b>Service Area 7</b>				
East LA	23188	12425	10763	46.4
Downey	29297	7043	22254	76.0
Norwalk	18826	4450	14376	76.4
Whittier	19921	3792	16129	81.0
Montebello	29653	9025	20628	69.6
Bell Gardens-Bell-Maywood-Cudahy-Commerce	32504	16427	16077	49.5
Huntington Park	21043	11392	9652	45.9
South Gate	23217	10304	12913	55.6
Bellflower	12761	4839	7922	62.1
La Mirada-Santa Fe Springs	28429	4150	24279	85.4
Lakewood-Cerritos-Artesia-Hawaiian Gardens	38884	5624	33260	85.5
Signal Hill	1905	234	1671	87.7
Other	1156	277	879	76.0
Total	280784	89982	190802	68.0
<b>Service Area 8</b>				
Hancock S.	1389	627	761	54.8
Wilmington	31664	9177	22487	71.0
Inglewood	18838	5185	13652	72.5
Torrance	25428	3304	22124	87.0
Long Beach N.	23599	6500	17099	72.5
Long Beach S.	29093	10472	18621	64.0
Long Beach E.	28881	3755	25126	87.0
Carson	19110	3462	15648	81.9
Palos Verdes-Lomita	18674	2297	16377	87.7
Redondo-Manhattan-Hermosa-EI Segundo	18665	993	17672	94.7
Gardena-Lawndale	30449	9308	21141	69.4
Hawthorne	22000	9667	12333	56.1
Other	1079	349	730	67.6
Total	268868	65097	203772	75.8
County Total	3140052	996935	2143116	68.3
61-70				
50-60				
< 50				

### Service Area 8: South Bay

Service Area 8 had an English Fluency rate of 75.8% which was above the countywide rate, 68.3%. The Hancock area (54.8%) and the Hawthorne area (56.1%) had the two lowest English Fluency rates in the service area. The Hawthorne and Hancock S. areas had graduation rates on the lower end in the service area, but were not the most extreme in this regard.

### 3rd Grade Reading Level

#### Description of Indicator

This indicator reports the percent of public school students reading at or above the 50th percentile in the 3rd grade.

#### Research Base and Relevance to PEI

Research shows that early abilities and academic skills can be used to predict school failure in later years (Lloyd, 1978; Alexander,

Entwisle, Horsey, 1997). 3rd grade reading level routinely assessed by standardized tests can be used with other risk factors to identify children at risk for dropping out of school. Early identification is a key component in any prevention program. Neighborhoods with a majority of children failing to read at the 50% percentile are at risk for school problems in the future.

### **What the Numbers Show**

Overall, 22.4% of third graders tested in Los Angeles County scored at or above the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile in standardized reading tests. All ethnic minority groups (with the exception of Other Asians and Chinese students) were well below 50%. Filipino (13.4%) and Vietnamese (15.6%) students had the most difficulty with reading tests, followed by African-American (23.5%) and Latino (21.7%) students. Only White students and other Asians had the majority of their population scoring at or above the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile.

### **Service Area Communities**

#### **Service Area 1: Antelope Valley**

Overall, Service Area 1 saw 32.7% of its third graders score at or above the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile in a standardized reading test. This figure was above the countywide figure of 22.4%. For the three ethnic groups for whom we do have data in this area (we do not have complete data for this indicator for Asian populations), African-American students had the lowest reading scores (17.9%), followed by Latino students (25.9%) and White students (53.5%). The overall high school graduation rates in the Antelope Valley mirror these reading scores with African-Americans hav-

ing the lowest rate, followed by Hispanic students, and then White students.

#### **Service Area 2: San Fernando**

Overall, 35.9% of Service Area 2 third graders were reading at or above the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile. This mark was still higher than the countywide figure of 22.4%. The Panorama City area (18.4%), followed closely by the Pacoima-Arleta area (18.9%), had the lowest reading rates in the service area. This appeared to be associated with the language barrier identified above. Both areas had the lowest English Fluency rates in the service area, as well. Although third grade is a long way from high school graduation, these data indicated that the Panorama City area, with the lowest reading scores in third grade, also had the lowest high school graduation rate in the service area.

#### **Service Area 3: San Gabriel**

Overall, 36.5% of Service Area 3 third graders scored at or above the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile in standardized reading tests. The two lowest scores were found in the El Monte area (23.9%) and the Pomona area (20.8%) where English Fluency was low. Across ethnic groups, 13.9% of African-American students scored at or above the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile (and this was the lowest score for African-American students across all service areas). Filipino (9.0%), Korean (9.6%), and Vietnamese (16.4%) student reading scores were very low in the third grade. Over 50% of White and Chinese third graders scored above the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile in reading. Examining high school graduation rates for Asian groups (though aggregated differently from the third grade data) appeared to be quite high. (This may either be due to these groups over-

Table 3.36  
3rd Grade Reading Level

Service Area 1	African-Am	Filipino	Latino	White	Chinese	Japa-nese	Korean	Vietnam-ese	Other Asian	Total
Lancaster	16.7		25.3	46.0						29.2
Palmdale	22.5		23.9	43.6						29.4
North County E.	13.8	8.9	28.4	58.8			8.8			45.5
Total	17.9	8.9	25.9	53.5			8.8			32.7
Service Area 2										
Santa Clarita	10.7		33.4	63.6			17.7			52.1
Burbank		11.7	24.9	50.5			17.1			41.3
Glendale		27.3	32.3	42.1			45.3			41.8
Northridge	9.3		25.4	58.4	35.5		51.9			44.2
Granada Hills	12.9		28.0	41.5			23.0			34.6
Pacoima-Arleta	10.3	27.9	17.1	41.3						18.9
La Tuna Cyn.	3.8		19.1	34.5						23.4
Panorama City		12.8	15.9	30.8						18.4
North Hollywood	7.4		19.0	37.5						23.1
Sherman Oaks	16.9		19.1	40.7						23.7
Encino		11.1	31.1	53.3						40.6
Woodland Hills	7.2		19.2	57.2						38.7
Brentwood N.	28.9		31.9	65.4			40.0			54.8
North County W.	13.8	8.9	28.4	58.8			8.8			45.5
La Canada-Flintridge	21.5		25.7	66.0	31.6		45.7			47.5
San Fernando-Calabasas-Agoura			16.3	69.7						51.0
Total	17.4	15.0	23.4	58.4	32.3		36.8			35.9
Service Area 3										
Pasadena	20.9		23.6	51.2						31.4
El Monte			20.3		15.3			13.4		23.9
Pomona	16.0		19.2	17.9					14.1	20.8
West Covina		19.8	34.5	42.6	16.1					38.3
Altadena-Monrovia-Sierra Madre	21.5		25.7	66.0	31.6		45.7			47.5
Alhambra-S. Pasadena			29.5	56.3	43.1		36.0	29.4	9.4	44.5
Arcadia-San Gabriel-Temple City-San Marino			33.2	65.4	63.8			12.9	16.7	58.8
Baldwin Park-Azusa-Duarte	22.6		22.9	5.7						24.4
Glendora-Claremont-San Dimas-La Verne	4.2		40.5	63.0						54.9
Covina-Walnut		13.2	24.6	37.9	62.6					36.9
Diamond Bar	13.8		32.0	45.9	58.7		30.1		58.2	52.5
La Puente-S. El Monte			23.6							24.3
Hacienda Heights			28.9	37.5	59.6					37.4
Monterey Park-Rosemead			26.2		39.5			15.6	39.8	33.8
Other	13.8	8.9	28.4	58.8			8.8			45.5
Total	13.9	9.0	28.1	58.6	52.4		9.6	16.4	38.7	36.5

## Service Area 4

	African-Am	Filipino	Latino	White	Chinese	Japa-nese	Korean	Vietnam-ese	Other Asian	Total
Wilshire La Brea E.	21.7		21.4	58.6			47.7			32.2
Hollywood	3.2	8.7	19.7	49.1			24.9			26.6
Pico Heights		35.8	18.1				48.9			23.1
Echo Park		20.7	14.3	25.4	44.4					17.5
Highland Park		23.6	23.0	41.7	8.9					25.7
Downtown			15.0		30.0					16.4
USC N.	19.0		17.8							18.5
West Adams	19.2		19.7							20.1
West Hollywood	28.3		29.8	64.1		38.8				50.6
Other			17.2							17.2
Total	20.4	19.9	17.7	62.0	22.7	38.8	45.4			23.3

## Service Area 5

Brentwood S.	28.9		31.9	65.4			40.0			54.8
West LA	5.8		23.7	63.1	37.1	45.8				44.4
Wilshire La Brea W.	21.7		21.4	58.6			47.7			32.2
Baldwin Hills W.	19.2		19.7							20.1
Playa Vista	32.3		24.0	64.5						40.0
Santa Monica-Culver City-Beverly Hills	28.3		29.8	64.1		38.8				50.6
Malibu			16.3	69.7						51.0
Other	27.8		20.3							24.5
Total	27.5		20.3	67.0	37.1	40.7	47.2			45.6

## Service Area 6

USC S.	19.0		17.8							18.5
Baldwin Hills S.	19.2		19.7							20.1
Hancock N.	14.7		14.6							14.7
USC E.	5.3		10.7							10.4
Watts	12.3		15.0							14.2
Florence-Firestone	6.1		15.4							15.3
Lynwood	9.8		18.6							19.0
Paramount	13.1		24.6	17.0						25.3
Compton	14.5		16.0							15.5
Other	28.3		29.8	64.1		38.8				50.6
Total	23.2		20.5	63.4		38.8				15.9

Table 3.36 continued  
3rd Grade Reading Level

Service Area 7	African-Am	Filipino	Latino	White	Chinese	Japa-nese	Korean	Vietnam-ese	Other Asian	Total
East LA			17.2							17.2
Downey	3.2		33.0	35.4						34.1
Norwalk			22.2	10.8						24.4
Whittier			28.9	37.5	59.6					37.4
Montebello			26.8	9.9						27.3
Bell Gardens-Bell-Maywood-Cudahy-Commerce			19.4							19.6
Huntington Park	6.1		15.4							15.3
South Gate	9.8		18.6							19.0
Bellflower	13.1		24.6	17.0						25.3
La Mirada-Santa Fe Springs			29.9	50.1			20.9		42.6	34.9
Lakewood-Cerritos-Artesia-Hawaiian Gardens	23.4	15.8	28.9	44.9	45.7		43.2			42.8
Signal Hill	29.1	36.8	27.9	72.0	43.6	15.5	33.0			58.1
Other	13.8		28.3	45.9	47.0		30.1	15.6	53.0	42.3
Total	18.2	32.1	26.1	57.1	47.0	15.5	31.2	15.6	53.0	27.7
Service Area 8										
Hancock S.	14.7		14.6							14.7
Wilmington	15.5		24.6	47.2						29.4
Inglewood	27.8		20.3							24.5
Torrance		13.4	36.1	59.9		24.3	19.6		58.9	53.7
Long Beach N.	24.9	39.4	23.2	45.0						28.3
Long Beach S.	22.7	37.5	19.9						15.3	22.4
Long Beach E.	25.5		36.1	67.8						52.7
Carson	27.4	29.0	25.1							28.5
Palos Verdes-Lomita	29.1	36.8	27.9	72.0	43.6	15.5	33.0			58.1
Redondo-Manhattan-Hermosa-El Segundo	9.4		33.9	75.5						69.0
Gardena-Lawndale	15.2		21.4	13.9			50.4			22.5
Hawthorne	16.1		21.6	39.8						22.7
Other	18.2	15.8	21.2	44.9	45.7		43.2			28.5
Total	17.8	16.4	20.5	46.9	45.7	19.1	43.1		55.7	35.2
County Total	23.5	13.4	21.7	57.5	46.9	30.3	29.9	15.6	52.5	22.4

40-50

20-39

&lt; 20

coming their language barrier or the impact of aggregating the lower performing Asian groups with the more populous and higher performing Chinese group.)

**Service Area 4: Metro**

Overall, 23.3% of third graders in Service Area 4 scored at or above the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile in reading. Only one community, the West Hollywood area (50.6%), had over 50% of its third graders scoring above the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile. This community also held the highest English Fluency rate and the highest high school graduation rate. All other communities had less than 40% of its third graders performing at or above the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile. The lowest performing community, the Downtown area (16.4%), also had the lowest high school graduation rate in the service area.

**Service Area 5: West**

Overall, 45.6% of third graders in Service Area 5 scored at or above the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile in reading, the highest percentage across service areas. The three lowest performing communities, the West LA area, Wilshire La Brea W. area, and the Baldwin Hills W. area, were areas with the lowest high school graduation rates in the service area. 67% of the White third graders in the service area scored at or above the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile, the highest score for this ethnic group across the other service areas.

**Service Area 6: South**

Overall, 15.9% of third graders in Service Area 6 scored at or above the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile in standardized reading tests. This was the lowest proportion of students failing to reach the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile across all service areas. Within the service area, the lowest reading

scores were found in the USC E. area (10.4%), where about one in ten third graders were at or above the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile. Together, with the indicators listed above (e.g. service area 6 had the lowest high school graduation rate and the lowest English Fluency rate among the other service areas), Service Area 6 is clearly the most at-risk service area for school failure.

**Service Area 7: East**

Overall, 27.7% of third graders in Service Area 7 scored at or above the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile in standardized reading tests. In four communities, less than 20% (or less than one in five third graders) scored at or above the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile: the East LA area (17.2%), the aggregate of Bell Gardens-Bell-Maywood-Cudahy-Commerce (19.6%), the Huntington Park area (15.3%), and the South Gate area (19%). All four of these communities had the lowest English Fluency rates in the service area. The Huntington Park area, which had the lowest 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading scores in the service area, also had the lowest high school graduation rate.

**Service Area 8: South Bay**

Overall, 35.2% of third graders in Service Area 8 scored at or above the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile in standardized reading tests, which was above the countywide rate of 22.4%. The Hancock S. area (14.7%) had the lowest reading scores and the lowest English Fluency rates in the service area (but not the lowest high school graduation rate).